

### **Amendments to the Claims**

Please add new claims 40 and 41 as shown below in the List of Claims.

### **List of Claims**

1-18. Cancelled.

19. (Previously presented) Coated peroxygen particles having a delayed release of active oxygen into an aqueous phase, each particle comprising a core, an innermost shell layer and an outer shell layer surrounding said core, wherein:
- a) said core comprises said peroxygen compound;
  - b) said innermost shell layer makes up 2-20 wt% of said coated particle and comprises at least one hydrate-forming inorganic salt;
  - c) said outer shell layer comprises as the main component an alkali metal silicate present at 0.2 to 3 wt% of said coated particle and with a modulus of  $\text{SiO}_2$  to  $\text{M}_2\text{O}$  of greater than 2.5, wherein M is an alkali metal, and wherein said outer layer has been prepared using an aqueous solution comprising 2-20 wt% alkali metal silicate.
20. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 19, wherein said aqueous solution used to prepare said outer shell layer comprises a modulus of  $\text{SiO}_2$  to  $\text{M}_2\text{O}$  in the range of from 3 to 5 and a concentration of alkali metal silicate in the range of from 3 to 15 wt%.
21. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 19, wherein said aqueous solution used to prepare said outer shell layer comprises 2 to 20 wt% sodium silicate.
22. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 19, wherein said alkali metal silicate in said outer shell layer comprises 0.3 to less than 1 wt% of said coated particle, and the time needed to dissolve 95% of said coated particles in water at 15°C and a concentration of 2 g/l is longer than 5 minutes.

23. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 19, wherein said innermost shell layer comprises one or more salts from the group consisting of: alkali metal sulfates; alkali metal carbonates; alkali metal bicarbonates; alkali metal borates; and alkali metal perborates.
24. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 19, wherein said innermost shell layer consists essentially of sodium sulfate and said outer shell layer on top of said innermost shell layer consists essentially of sodium silicates with a modulus in the range from 3 to 5.
25. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 24, wherein said innermost shell layer comprises 2 to 10 wt% sodium sulfate and said outer shell layer comprises 0.3 to less than 1 wt% sodium silicates, in each case based on the total weight of said coated particle.
26. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 19, wherein each particle comprises one or more additional shell layers on said outer shell layer.
27. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 26, wherein each particle comprises an outermost layer of a finely divided inorganic or organic free-flowing auxiliary substance.
28. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 19, wherein the average particle diameter is in the range from 0.5 to 1 mm with substantially no particles smaller than 0.2 mm.
29. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 28, wherein said particles have a D<sub>10</sub> value of at least 0.35 mm.
30. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 28, wherein the fraction of particles with a diameter smaller than 0.4 mm is less than 10 wt%.

31. (Previously presented) The coated particles of claim 19, wherein said peroxygen compound is sodium percarbonate.
32. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation of the coated peroxygen particles of claim 31, comprising:
  - a) spraying said aqueous solution comprising 2-20% alkali metal silicate onto sodium percarbonate particles comprising said core and said innermost shell layer;
  - b) simultaneously or subsequently evaporating water from the particles sprayed in step a) to form said outer shell layer.
33. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 32, wherein said alkali metal silicate solution is a sodium water-glass solution.
34. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 32 wherein:
  - a) said innermost layer is applied to said core, wherein said core comprises said sodium percarbonate and said innermost layer comprises 3 to 10 wt% of sodium sulfate, calculated as the hydrate-free form and based on the coated sodium percarbonate particle; and
  - b) a sodium water-glass solution substantially comprising sodium silicate with a modulus in the range from 3 to 5 and with a concentration of sodium silicate in the range from 5 to 10 wt% is applied to said sodium percarbonate particles by spraying, said spraying being ended after application of 0.2 to 3 wt% sodium silicate.
35. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation of the coated peroxygen particles of claim 31, comprising: applying said outer layer by fluidized bed coating particles having at least one innermost shell layer.
36. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 32, wherein sodium percarbonate coated with an innermost layer of at least one hydratable salt and an outer layer of alkali

metal silicates is brought into contact with a pulverulent inorganic free-flowing auxiliary substance in an effective amount.

37. (Previously presented) The coated particle of claim 27, wherein said free-flowing auxiliary substance is selected from the group consisting of: precipitated silica; pyrogenic silica; aluminium oxide; titanium dioxide; aluminium silicate; and montmorillonite.

38-39. Cancelled

40. (New) The coated peroxygen particles of claim 19, wherein said outer layer is prepared using an aqueous solution comprising 3-15% wt% alkali metal silicate.

41. (New) The coated peroxygen particles of claim 19, wherein said outer layer is prepared using an aqueous solution comprising 5-10% wt% alkali metal silicate.